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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher, United Methodist Church of Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our foundation that anchors us in stormy times, our hope when all doors seem to close around us, and our light that awakens within us courage to move compassionately toward our neighbor, we give You thanks for Your abiding presence in our lives.

Amid the complexities and anxieties of these days, we ask that You open our ears to hear with clarity the cries of Your human family, especially the children. Open our eyes to see Your vision of life's unity in rich diversity. Open our hearts so that we may in our actions transcend all that keeps us from living lives of generosity, trusting and following You, the source of all life.

May our work today and every day reflect Your intentions for our world. We pray this in Your name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leader-time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there

will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Senator from Kansas, Mr. ROBERTS, or his designee, and the second 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader, or his designee.

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, so that Democratic Senators will have some knowledge of what is going to happen in the time we have, we have three Senators who have asked to speak—Senators AKAKA, HARKIN, and BEN NELSON. That should use up our 30 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, as the Acting President pro tempore has indicated, there will be 60 minutes of morning business. Following that, the Senate will begin the consideration of H.R. 2673, the Agriculture appropriations bill. It is the majority leader's intention to complete action on that measure during today's session. The Senate will begin working through amendments to the bill this morning. Senators who have amendments are asked to contact the bill managers as soon as possible.

NOTICE

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BRUCE R. JAMES, *Public Printer*.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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In addition to the Agriculture appropriations bill, the Senate will also vote on passage of S. 1753, the Fair Credit Reporting legislation.

We also have a short time agreement for the consideration of H.R. 1828, the Syria accountability bill. It is the leader's intention to complete action on this bill today as well.

I inform my colleagues, on behalf of the leader, that it will be a very busy day and rollcall votes will occur throughout the day.

It is my understanding that during morning business I have 30 minutes of time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The Senator is recognized for up to 30 minutes.

Mr. ROBERTS. I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Georgia.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kansas for conducting this time for morning business.

I rise in a very different mood today—different from any other mood I have been in since I had the privilege of becoming a Member of this body. I had the privilege of serving for 8 years in the House of Representatives, and now for a year in my first term in the Senate. During my last 2 years in the House, I served on the House Intelligence Committee. For the past year now, I have served on the Senate Intelligence Committee, under the strong leadership of the Senator from Kansas, Senator ROBERTS, as well as his vice chairman, Senator ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia. We operate in a very bipartisan way in both the House and Senate Intelligence Committees.

I was privileged to serve alongside of the now-ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee in conducting a very thorough and detailed review of the intelligence community leading up to September 11 and particularly concluding with a report detailing the failures in the intelligence community leading up to September 11, 2001. All of this oversight work has been done in a very bipartisan way since I have been in the Senate. Again, we have operated within the Intelligence Committee in a very bipartisan way. We can have our differences, and we have had them; but it has been a very healthy debate up to this point in time.

Unfortunately, yesterday, the Republicans on the Senate side of the Intelligence Committee came into possession of a two-page memorandum that details a systematic way in which the other side of the aisle intends to undermine and attack the President of the United States on the intelligence information not only leading up to the con-

flict in Iraq, but also moving beyond that, into the policy area—again, trying to undermine the policy of the President of the United States with respect to the conflict in Iraq.

This is a different road than the Intelligence Committees on the House and Senate sides have been down before. It is not the kind of road an Intelligence Committee should be traveling down. I rise to say that I don't know where this memo came from. I have seen a copy of it. I don't know whether it was staff driven or member driven. I have great respect for the members of the Intelligence Committee on both sides of the aisle, and I don't think anyone on the other side of the aisle would intentionally try to undermine the operation of our troops in Iraq today. Yet, as I looked at this memorandum and read through it, there was a very clear and definite outline of undermining the policy of the President of the United States, the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, and anybody involved in the current conflict with Iraq.

If that particular outline were followed, it would be devastating not only to this body—the bipartisan integrity of this body—but it would have the potential effect of truly undermining the operation in Iraq.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will rethink the position if it is one in which they are moving toward. I hope they will certainly disavow any knowledge of the position or intent to undermine the operation in Iraq from an intelligence or oversight standpoint within the Senate Intelligence Committee with respect to a report we are going to be concluding and preparing within a matter of days or weeks.

I truly hope we can move forward in a positive way, with a strong, positive attitude toward ensuring the operation in Iraq is concluded in a satisfactory manner, and that the intelligence community can move forward knowing they have the support, in a bipartisan way, of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and the matter-of-fact ideas and plans laid out in this memorandum will certainly not be carried out.

I thank the chairman for his leadership and position on this. I yield the floor.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from Missouri, Senator BOND.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, who I believe is doing a very fine job under very difficult circumstances, leading a bipartisan inquiry, which is the legitimate scope of the Intelligence Committee on how we can improve our intelligence system.

When we are fighting the battle against terrorism, there is no question that intelligence is the coin of the realm. There is no way we can deter terrorist attacks by threatening to retaliate or administer retributive justice to those who make terrorist

strikes against us. When you are dealing with suicide bombers, there is not going to be anything left for us to retaliate against or take retribution against.

Finding the holes in our intelligence system, and how we can do a better job, is a major challenge. I joined the Intelligence Committee this year because I realized how important it is to the future of peace and security in the world and to our own security. I know from personal experience that we and our staffs—and particularly our staffs—have been engaged in an exhaustive examination of what the intelligence was prior to declaring Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was a major effort.

As those in the Chamber may know, I have supported the President. I supported the Iraqi supplemental, and I thank our colleagues for passing that bill to defend our troops and also to make sure we build Iraq so we can move our troops out.

But when the revelation came out yesterday of a memorandum apparently from Democratic staff, minority staff on the Intelligence Committee, indicating there was a different agenda, I was very much concerned. The key element in the Intelligence Committee, unlike any other committee, is that we have to do our work in confidence. We have to be able to maintain the confidence of the intelligence community that comes before us. We must protect intelligence sources, and we cannot get engaged in partisan battles.

Yet the memorandum that came out yesterday has such interesting quotes such as:

Pull the majority along as far as we can on issues that may lead to major new disclosures regarding improper or questionable conduct by administration officials.

They are not looking at the Intelligence Committee; they are looking at the administration. They say:

We need to look at activities of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the State Department.

They talk about preparing additional views. And they say:

Among other things, we will castigate the majority for seeking to limit the scope of the inquiry.

They talk about an independent investigation, and they say:

We can pull the trigger on an independent investigation on the administration's use of intelligence at any time.

When you talk about what goes on and how intelligence is used, that is a topic of debate in the political realm, and there is no shortage of that debate in particularly the Democratic primaries right now. We see many of the candidates who are arguing very forcefully about it. I am disappointed that the discussion in the Presidential primary has totally ignored or forgotten the old adage that politics stops at the water's edge; that we should not be getting into political battles when we have troops in harm's way, and there is no question we have troops in harm's way.